

The Times-Dispatch,

Published Daily and Weekly

At No. 4 North Tenth Street, Richmond, Va. Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 2 cents a copy.

The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 5 cents a copy.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH, including Sunday, in Richmond and Manchester, by carrier, 12 cents per week or 60 cents per month.

THE TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, Va.

BY MAIL. One Six Three One
Daily, with Sunday, \$1.00 \$1.25 \$1.50
Daily, without Sunday, .75 .90 1.10
Sunday edition only, .25 .30 .35
Weekly (Wednesday), 1.00 .60 .25

All Unsigned Communications will be rejected.

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Up-Town Office at T. A. Miller's, No. 319 East Broad Street.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1904.

Our First Birthday.

To-day The Times-Dispatch celebrates its first birthday. The twenty-seventh day of January, 1904, saw the first issue of The Times-Dispatch, which, unlike most new publications, was thoroughly well known in advance to the newspaper reading public of Richmond, Virginia, and the South. For fifty-three years the Dispatch had gone into the homes of the people. All during the fierce decade of debate that preceded the gigantic trial by water of battle, from '61 to '65, the Dispatch had been published regularly, and when the war came it had already firmly established itself as an influential journal, which position it still further strengthened by the defense of Southern rights during the dark days of reconstruction. For the Dispatch had seen the joys and sorrows of its people and had by fellow-suffering struck its roots deeply into popular favor.

From 1855 to 1888 the Dispatch saw many trials rise and fall, but in the latter year The Times came into the field, with the avowed intention of giving utterance to the spirit of progress, that was then beginning to make itself felt in the political life of Virginia.

The birthday of The Times-Dispatch is, perhaps, as fitting an occasion as could be chosen to call to mind the notable fight for pure elections which was made and led by The Times, and which resulted in so arousing public consciousness that the recurrence of such frauds as those which made Smith's Precinct historic became impossible long before the Constitutional Convention was called.

Very early in its career The Times became aware of the fact that a newspaper needs up-to-date machinery just as much as any other manufacturing business and so in February, 1891, The Times installed the first perfecting press ever used in Virginia and was thereby enabled to print the first paper of more than eight pages. This notable advance, which gave The Times a sixteen-page Sunday paper, was shortly followed by the installation of Mergenthaler typesetting machines, in which The Times again led Virginia, as well as being among the pioneers of America in this departure.

A newspaper is not altogether the gatherer of news; it is also the disseminator of news and to do this speedily and efficiently, the most modern and improved machinery is necessary. In accordance with this principle, The Times installed in 1901 the first color press in Virginia, a feature that was an immediate and overwhelming success.

All this is genealogical, but it goes to show that when The Times and The Dispatch consolidated and issued one paper under their joint names, the public knew what to expect. They knew that The Times-Dispatch would have the memories of The Dispatch, as well as those of The Times. They knew that The Times-Dispatch would therefore stand for a steadfast belief in Virginia past, present and future, and by adding the progressive vigor of The Times to the widespread affiliations and long memories of The Dispatch, Richmond and Virginia have gained a paper that is actually "better than both."

The past year has shown by a largely increased circulation and advertising patronage that The Times-Dispatch is filling a wider and more useful sphere than either of its predecessors, and on this, our birthday, we feel that we can with propriety congratulate ourselves upon the achievement of our first year and with confidence look forward to those that are to come.

Senator Daniel.

The average Virginian would like to be a member of the General Assembly whenever the time rolls around to select John W. Daniel as United States senator.

It is a pleasure to vote for him. His hold upon the hearts of the people is remarkable, but not strange, for along with the charm of the orator he possesses in an uncommon degree a personal magnetism, which attracts men of all classes.

This popularity has extended to the national capital, and there is no other member of either house who is more highly esteemed by his colleagues than he is—a very desirable position to occupy, whether viewed from an official standpoint or as a basis for effective senatorial work.

When the Legislature of Georgia last elected Ben Hill as senator, the presiding officer stated that the vote cast was, and thereupon announced that Hon. B. H. Hill had been elected United States senator for the term of six years. Right there, an enthusiastic admirer of Mr. Hill's rose and very solemnly, if not seriously, proposed to strike out the

words "six years" and insert "for the period of his natural life!"

That the proposition was not carried, was only because it was ruled to be out of order. Yet the Georgians were not proud of Mr. Hill (than the Virginians are of John W. Daniel). They could not have loved Mr. Hill more than Virginians love Daniel.

The Major will enter upon his fourth term as a senator from Virginia on March 4, 1905. He was born in 1832 and has been in the Senate since 1887. He has already served his State in the Senate longer than any of his predecessors, and with one more election after this, which his age and health makes easily within range of probability, he will have equalled the thirty years of Benton—so may it be.

The election took place yesterday. The Republicans voted for Mr. Sloop in pursuance of their newly formed purpose not to allow themselves to be considered a negligible quantity in Virginia politics. The two houses met separately yesterday, but to-day they will have a joint session to authenticate the vote and announce the result.

Senator Daniel is in the city, and may be expected to make a speech in accepting re-election.

Another Primary Bill.

Mr. Machen, of Alexandria, introduced in the Senate yesterday a bill to provide for primary elections which is the most radical of all similar measures hitherto offered. It practically takes the primary out of control of the political parties and places it under control and supervision of the court. The election judges and clerks are to be appointed by the judge of the Circuit or Corporation Court, according to jurisdiction, and in case of a contest, appeal may lie in such court, and a receipt had in the presence of the court, after which the judge shall have recorded in the common law order book the facts entertained by him and shall direct the clerk of his court to send a certified copy of such finding to the chairman of the committee or body having such primary in charge.

The bill possesses many excellent features, but we are not at all sure that the masses are ready for it. Friends of the primary plan must keep in view this all important fact. The bill does not make the primary system compulsory, and should not do so. It should become a law it would be entirely optional with the political parties whether or not they would hold a primary. Therefore, if the law is too radical it may defeat its own end.

The bill should be thoroughly discussed, and the opinion of party leaders throughout the State should be obtained before it is enacted.

The Pulpit.

On Sunday night, the Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, of New York, was indisposed, and his sermon was read by his assistant, and a remarkable sermon it was. His subject was The Powers of Nations, and his sermon began with allusion to the fact that pedestrians in New York are not safe from those who ride in vehicles. Then there was a dissertation on the "vehicular tyranny" of the town.

After this, the preacher discussed Russian affairs, and then he discussed the Panama affair and Secretary Hay's connection with it, and so on to the end, without any reference, so far as appears in the report, to anything religious. The discourse would have made a fairly good editorial for a secular paper, but it had none of the characteristics of a gospel sermon.

Why a preacher should turn away from the richness of the Bible to discuss Panama and Russia and automobiles, is past our comprehension, and we are quite as much at a loss to know why churchgoers wish to listen to such discourses. We are also unable to understand how a preacher expects to promote the cause of religion by that sort of preaching.

Monument to Maury.

Colonel William H. Stewart has introduced a bill in the House appropriating \$10,000 for a monument in the Capitol Square to Commodore Maury. We are in full sympathy with the spirit of the bill. It is not to the credit of the State that we have neglected so long to build a monument to this great man. But the Legislature will not be apt to act until some volunteer organization shall have taken the initiative. That has been the rule, and it will doubtless be followed.

Colonel Stewart has long had this subject at heart, and has endeavored to arouse his fellow-citizens to their duty. In offering his bill on Monday last, he said:

Mr. Speaker, "This is an educational era, and legislators, imbibing public sentiment, are trimming their sails to go with the current."

Public education is in the line of highest wisdom.

It is commendable and good to support it with all the financial power of the State; but the practical application should be so guided as not to be swept by a flood of extravagance, and it should not flow, altogether, in one channel.

The magnificent monuments and splendid bronze figures around this Capitol are teachers and everlasting books of history, for a thousand generations may learn lessons of civility and patriotism of honor and truth.

By them men and women, boys and girls, are inspired to love goodness and greatness, to practice benevolence and virtue.

That great dumb figure, with uplifted arm, is an host of educational power, and every one added to the group awakens public pride for the republic, strengthens the love of the State, plants more faith in freedom, and pleads for highest manhood in human conduct.

I therefore ask the educational sentiment of the General Assembly to add one more to the splendid array about this Capitol—of the greatest scientist and wisest sailor of the world, Commodore Matthew F. Maury.

The Negro at the North.

It appears from recent publications that the negro vote in New York is now giving the Republicans more or less concern. Recently Governor Odell extended a personal invitation to John W. Thompson, a prominent negro of Rochester,

to be present at the annual reception to be given at the Executive Mansion in Albany Thursday night. Thompson has accepted the invitation. Negroes took upon Governor Odell's invitation as significant, in view of the fact that at the convention of the Afro-American Council, held in Washington last month, Thompson was named as one of a committee of five to attend the National Republican Convention, and ask the leaders of the party what they proposed to do about the disfranchisement of the colored voter in the South.

The committee will demand, says a correspondent, that the Republicans lend their efforts to have the grandfather's clause in Louisiana and the educational clause in the Constitution of Virginia declared null and void. If the Republicans refuse, the negro vote will be given to the Democrats. Thompson claims that the negroes of this State are so well organized that the 30,000 negro votes can be swung either way, and the negro, therefore, has the balance of power. Thompson has also stated that the negro has gone into politics to see if his wrongs cannot be righted by that method.

The more the negro vote figures in Republican politics at the North, the better we like it. Experience is the best teacher, and the more the Republicans at the North are brought face to face with the negro question, political and otherwise, the more thoroughly will they understand the situation in the South.

Roads and Schools.

What can we do to improve the school attendance in the country? Improve the roads. How can we expect a regular attendance at a season like this, when the children must wade ankle deep in mud in order to reach the school house? When one rides over the country roads, as we have recently done, and sees the situation for himself, the wonder to him is that the children go to school at all, during a January thaw. Apart from the wading, it is dangerous to life for a delicate boy or girl to tramp through mud and water for a mile or more each day, and sit during school hours with their feet encased in wet shoes and stockings. It is an awful situation, and no one thing is doing quite so much to cripple the country schools.

A citizen of Richmond, who owns a farm in Chesterfield county, has recently been trying to have a house built, but operations were recently suspended, and when he called the builder to account, he was informed that it was literally an impossibility to haul a load of bricks over the bottomless roads.

Can nothing be done to arouse our people to the importance of this subject?

The New York Evening Post reviews at length Miss Ellen Glasgow's latest book, "The Deliverance," and bestows upon it highest praise.

"No interpretation so large, so sincere and unprejudiced of Southern life," says the Evening Post, "has ever appeared before from an author in that region. She has added to the dignity of her theme the distinction of a beautiful literary style, and informed it with a humor as natural and effulgent as Virginia sunshine."

As for the story itself, the Post says that it is delightfully interesting and contains more distinct systems of philosophy than ever before appeared in a Southern novel.

At the Maryland tuberculosis exposition in Baltimore, one whole section of the hall has been devoted to placards and bulletins prohibiting spitting, as proscribed in the cities of New York, Boston, Omaha, Denver and other places. This is the special pot department of Dr. John Ruhrah, chairman of the committee upon State and municipal prophylaxis. Boston excels all other cities with a big placard two feet long, reading as follows:

You Are Violating the Law Against SPITTING.

You Are Subject to Imprisonment or Fine, or Both.

By Order of the Board of Health, E. J. LEDERLE, President.

These slips are handed by the conductors of street cars to persons who are seen spitting on the car floors, and it is an excellent preventive.

Mayor Carter H. Harrison, of Chicago, has been indicted by the grand jury of that city for neglect of duty in enforcing the laws for its protection of life and property against fire. The particular delinquency with which he is charged is in connection with the Iroquois Theatre disaster.

We do not believe he will be convicted. But it will be a warning to him and to the public authorities generally if loss of life hereafter occurs through any neglect of theirs. It will have the effect through-out the land of admonishing public officers that there is a grave responsibility resting upon them, and that hereafter they will not deal lightly with them, if they prove recreant to their trust.

Asbestos is losing its reputation. Stages curtains made of this material are under grave suspicion, and on Monday an asbestos factory in Chicago was destroyed by fire. A five story building was burned, and in it much material in various stages of advancement.

King Peter is suspected of having accepted the throne of Syria for the same reason that several candidates wanted vacant county judgeships in Virginia last fall—for the prestige.

As long as the winter was dry and the ground was hard frozen, we heard but little of the good roads question. Now it is different, and the usual winter howl is on.

The rapidly with which January is hiding itself in the folds of the garments of 1904 is simply startling to the man who has notes falling due in February.

Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, now has decided troubles of his own, and no mistake.

A cruel, cold wave is due to-day, and plowing is not half over in old Virginia.



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Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

After circling the field with its glass, the Petersburg Index-Appeal says: "Everything encourages the belief that the round-robin sense of the Democratic party will assert itself this year, and that Mr. Bryan will receive his coup de grace as a party distinct and political unit at the next Democratic National Convention."

The Northampton Times reviews the story of Lieutenant-Governor Willard and the rabbit, and concludes:

"Discarding all thingsavoring of unfairness, whether afforded by a gun barrel, or barrel of any kind, sounds so much like the Lieutenant-Governor as to lend color of probability to the report anyway."

The Roanoke Evening World, commenting on Senator Thomas's education bill, says:

"It is right to give every person, whatever his color, an improved educational condition, but it is evident that but little can be done toward educating the negro until his moral nature has been improved by the religious and moral education. To give him this and such education as will fit him for his sphere in life seems the best course for the future development in the line of morals and intellectuality."

The Portsmouth Star says:

"Patriotism, in all of its forms and manifestations, is beautiful. It has inspired and inspired the most eloquent apostrophes of speech the human mind can conceive. It is the chief of the virtues of the North; safe is the Democratic party honored, by such desperate and dishonest efforts as the 'good government' patriots have carried out, and the party and the city government from the ring."

The South Was Represented.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In the report which you published of the hearing before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives on the Hopburn-Dolliver bill, there was no mention made of the fact that Southern members were represented before the committee or not. It is with no desire to unduly magnify myself, but simply to let the people know what we were doing in the following statement:

Dr. C. Dinwiddie, the national legislative superintendent, wrote me on Monday that he desired to be represented on the committee, and as I was a member of the National Executive Committee of Living the League, he desired me to come to Washington. I was present at the hearing, and the committee was divided into two sides. Of this Mr. Dinwiddie, the national legislative superintendent, took the minutes, and the writer, representing especially the Southern States, took three minutes. He presented the following argument:

"The question before the committee is purely a question of local self-government. It concerns the right of the States to manage their own affairs without outside interference. The Supreme Court has held that the regulation of the liquor traffic is a subject which is purely local, and the police legislation of the various States, and the general government should have no voice in the matter. The liquor traffic has been so curtailed and repressed as in the South Atlantic, the Gulf States, and Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, but the method has been that of allowing each neighborhood to settle the liquor question for itself. Large cities have been freed from the saloon, and yet there is no State-wide prohibition. It has been done by giving control to each neighborhood, and the committee has committed that we be allowed to follow out this same principle between the States and the general government. We simply ask to be left alone to manage our own affairs, and to be free from the interference of the Federal Government. We ask that this bill be passed, so that there be a subject which is purely local, and the police legislation of the various States, and the general government should have no voice in the matter. The liquor traffic has been so curtailed and repressed as in the South Atlantic, the Gulf States, and Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, but the method has been that of allowing each neighborhood to settle the liquor question for itself. Large cities have been freed from the saloon, and yet there is no State-wide prohibition. It has been done by giving control to each neighborhood, and the committee has committed that we be allowed to follow out this same principle between the States and the general government. We simply ask to be left alone to manage our own affairs, and to be free from the interference of the Federal Government. 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